(c) Rural Electrification Corporation has been assisting the concerned State Governments to promote viable Rural Electric Cooperatives in their States. Rural Electrification Corporation has been extending concessional finance for Rural Electric Cooperatives. No new assistance could be organised during the last 2 years.

Drinking Water Facilities under AUWSP and Gujarat

755. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities and towns which have so far been provided with drinking water facilities in Gujarat under the Accelerated Urban Supply Programme;

(b) how many additional cities and towns are likely to be covered under the programme during the current financial year and by the end of the century; and

(c) what other measures are being taken by Government to augment the drinking water supply in urban areas of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) applicable to towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census, schemes have been sanctioned for providing safe drinking water facilities to Dharampur, Bantva, Dhrol, Okha Port, Jodia, Men-darda, Barwala and Surajkaradi towns in Gujarat.

(b) Out of a total of 84 towns eligible for assistance under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP), the numbers of additional towns likely to be covered under the programme during the current financial year and by the end of the century, would depend on generation of schemes and their priority as decided by the State Government, the fund requirment and the allocation of resources by the Planning Commission.

(c) Water Supply is a State subject but the Central Government endeavours to provide financial assistance to the States within the limits of available resources to tackle this problem. .Apart from the Centrally sponsored AUWS Programme, allocations are made by the Planning Commission in the State Plan under the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector. The total allocations made so far during the Eighth Plan period upto March, 19% to Gujarat are Rs. 77.89 crores.

Review of Housing Policy

756. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have of late reviewed the housing policy and adopted it with or without modifications;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure optimum use of houses and residential units available in metropolises and other cities and towns by enactment of rent laws, on the pattern of the model-law framed by Government over two years ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF» URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINIS TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The task of formulation of National Housing Policy was initiated in the mid-eightees. After indepth consultations, the final version of the policy was tabled in Parliament in July, 1992. The National Housing Policy was approved by Parliament in - August, 1994.

(b) The policy is based on the principle of "Enabling Approach of the State". State/public agencies will act mainly as 'facilitators' rather than 'builders' or 'providers' of housing. The "enabling role" of

the State envisaged in the national Housing Policy related to:—

(i) assisting all people to secure affordable shelter;

(ii) facilitating the flow of finance to the housing sector;

(iii) increasing the availability to serviced land for housing;

(iv) developing and propagating appropriate cost effective technologies and building materials;

(v) creating an enabling environment for increased housing activities through removal of legal conutrints;

(vi) augmenting infrastructure facilities for better environment in human settlements.

The basic goals enunciated in the National Housing Policy include reducing houselessness, providing larger supply of developed land and finance to different income groups, promoting use of appropriate and energy saving building materials and cost effective construction technologies, assisting in the upgradation of all unserviceable houses in rural and urban areas, and providing the minimum level of basic services and amenities to ensure a healthy environment within the framework of integrated development of rural and urban settlements.

(c) Recognising the fact thai the rent control laws in many States have resulted in a freez on rents, very low return in investment and difficulty in resuming possession, thereby affecting investment in rental housing and causing deterioration in renfal housing stock, the Central Gov-ermnent has formulated a Model Rent Control Legislation with the objective of balancing the interests of landlords and tenants, premitting periodic revision of rent, ensuring better maintenance and speeding up the adjudication of disputes. The Model Legislation was forwarded to the State Governments with the advice to adopt the same or amend their existing laws on the lines of the Model legislation with such modification, as may be necessary, to suit local conditions. Further action in this regard lies with the State Governments.

ग्रिडों के अन्तर्राज्य सम्पर्क द्वारा बिजली का बनाया जाना

757. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 3 दिसंबर, 1996 के "पायनियर" में "इन्टर स्टेट लिंक ऑफ ग्रिडस केन सेव 10,000 मे० वा० पावर एक्सपर्ट" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सही है कि देश में विभिन्न क्षेत्रीय ग्रिडों को आपस में जोड़ देने से 10,000 मेगावाट बिजली बचाई जा सकती है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई प्रभावी उपाय किए हैं?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और गैर-पारंपरिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० एस० वेणुगोपालाचारी): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) दिसम्बर, 1991 में कराए गए एक अध्ययन से यह पता लगा है कि विद्यमान और नई परोक्षण लाइनों का पूर्ण सीमा तक उपयोग करने से 52000 मीडब्ल्यू अतिरिक्त शक्यता का समुपयोजन किया जा सकेगा जो 10000 मे०वा० विद्युत के बराबर है।

(ग) और (घ) पावरग्रिड कार्पोरेशन ने अंतःक्षेत्रीय संयोजन लाइनों के माध्यम से क्षेत्रों को जोड़ने के लिए एक योजना तैयार की है। उत्तरी और पश्चिमी क्षेत्रों को जोड़ने के लिए 500 मे०वा० की एचवीडीसी बैक-टू-बैक लाईन विन्ध्याचल में पहले ही प्रचालनाधीन है। दो अन्य लिंक यथा पश्चिमी और दक्षिणी क्षेत्रों को जोड़ने वाला 1000 मे०वा० का चन्द्रपुर एचवीडीसी बैक-टू-बैक तथा पूर्वी और दक्षिणी क्षेत्रों को जोड़ने वाला बिहार बैक-टू-बैक वर्तमान में निर्माणाधीन है और इनके क्रमशः वर्ष 1998 में चालू हो जाने की प्रत्याशा है उत्तरी और पूर्वी क्षेत्रों को जोड़ने वाला सासाराम स्थित एक 500 मे०वा० का बैक-टू-बैक लिंक का पहले ही अनुमोदन कर दिया गया है और इसके पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय के संयोजन चालू हो